

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4057.4.7><http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:3E6B4852-F831-4186-A1D2-5C0EEB598F99>

## New replacement name for the species *Scarabaeus (Scarabaeolus) nitidus* Davis & Deschodt, 2015 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae)—not an American pest

ADRIAN L.V. DAVIS<sup>1</sup>, RIAAN STALS<sup>2,4</sup> & CHRISTIAN M. DESCHODT<sup>1,3</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa<sup>2</sup>South African National Collection of Insects, ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa<sup>3</sup>Department of Zoology and Entomology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa<sup>4</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: StalsR@arc.agric.za

In their review of the subgenus *Scarabaeus (Scarabaeolus)* Balthasar, 1965 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae), Deschodt *et al.* (2015) described seven new species from Africa. One of these was *Scarabaeus (Scarabaeolus) nitidus* Davis & Deschodt, known by only twelve specimens from Botswana. This new name is preoccupied by *Scarabaeus nitidus* Linnaeus, 1758, a fact that was overlooked. The latter species has been known as *Cotinis nitida* (Linnaeus) since Burmeister (1842) placed the species in his new genus *Cotinis*. It belongs to the subfamily Cetoniinae of Scarabaeidae, is called the Green June Beetle, and is a common pest species throughout most of the eastern United States (Goodrich 1966; Woodruff 2008).

Below, a new replacement name is proposed in accordance with Article 60 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999), taking cognisance of Article 57.4 that deems the subgeneric name *Scarabaeolus* irrelevant.

### Genus *Scarabaeus* Linnaeus, 1758: 345

#### Subgenus *Scarabaeolus* Balthasar, 1965: 14

*Scarabaeus (Scarabaeolus) afronitidus* Davis & Deschodt **nom. nov.**, *nec* *Scarabaeus nitidus* Linnaeus, 1758: 350*Scarabaeus (Scarabaeolus) nitidus* Davis & Deschodt, 2015: 519, **syn. n.**

**Etymology.** As in the homonymic name, the shiny appearance of the Botswana species is referenced, with *afro-* prefixed to also etymologically discriminate the African from the American species.

### Acknowledgments

Ray T. Perreault, citizen scientist, cirriped specialist, and an editor and administrator on Wikispecies, brought this homonymy to the attention of C.H. Scholtz, who conveyed the news to us.

### References

- Balthasar, V. (1965) Eine neue Untergattung und neue Arten der Familie Scarabaeidae (Col.). (121. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Scarabaeoidea). *Acta Entomologica Bohemoslovaca*, 62 (1), 14–23.
- Burmeister, H. (1842) *Besondere Entomologie, Fortsetzung. Coleoptera Lamellicornia Melitophila. Handbuch der Entomologie*, Volume 3. T.C.F. Enslin, Berlin, xxii + 828 + [1] pp.
- Deschodt, C.M., Davis, A.L.V. & Scholtz, C.H. (2015) Status changes, new synonymies, key and descriptions of seven new species in the subgenus *Scarabaeus (Scarabaeolus)* Balthasar 1965 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae). *Zootaxa*, 3931 (4), 505–527. <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3931.4.3>
- Goodrich, M.A. (1966) A revision of the genus *Cotinis* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, 59 (3), 550–568. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/aesa/59.3.550>
- ICZN [International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature]. (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 4th Edition. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, xxix + 306 pp.
- Linnaeus, C. (1758) *Systema Naturæ per Regna Tria Naturæ, secundum Classes, Ordines, Genera, Species, cum Characteribus, Differentiis, Synonymis, Locis*, 10th Edition, Volume 1. Lars Salvius, Stockholm, ii + 824 pp. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.542>
- Woodruff, R. (2008) The genus *Cotinis* Burmeister in the eastern United States, with description of a new species from the Florida Keys, including a checklist of the genus (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae). *Insecta Mundi*, 0051, 1–13.